



Fire Update

Meadow Fire

Nez Perce
National Forest

September 9, 2006 9:00 am

Internet Address: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc>

or: <http://www.inciweb.org>

For Fire Information Phone: (208) 842-9225 open 8 am to 9 pm

For Immediate Release

Fire Facts

The Meadow Fire is managed by Doug Turman's Northern Rockies Incident Management Team.

Date Started: September 3, 2006 **Cause of Ignition:** lightning **Location:** Red River, Idaho

Size: 6,400 acres **Percent Contained:** 5% **Estimated Time of Containment:** Unknown

Number of Personnel: 197 **Equipment:** 1 feller buncher, 1 dozer, 1 skidgine, 4 engines, 3 water tenders, two excavators

Aircraft: Shared air resources with the Nez Perce NF and other surrounding large fires

20-person crews: 5, including 2 Hot shot crews

Cost to date: \$381,000 **Injuries Today:** 0

Cooperators: Idaho County Sheriff's Department, Idaho County Emergency Management Services, Nez Perce National Forest

Weather Helps Firefighters Make Progress On The Meadow Fire

Red River, Idaho –Thunderstorms over and around the Meadow Fire Friday afternoon had little effect on the fire as it continued to chew at unburned vegetation in the interior and portions of the fire's perimeter. The fire received approximately 1/10 inch of rain with the storm cells that passed through. Firefighters were successful in pinching off the fire's edge along the west side of the fire above Red River by tying together hand and equipment containment lines from Forest Service Road 9541 to the fire's perimeter. Acreage of the Meadow fire grew today to 6,400 acres due to more accurate mapping with an aerial flight. Two 20-person crews were pulled from the Meadow Fire to support the Nez Perce National Forest firefighters on the Baker Fire southwest of Elk City.

The Incident Command Post for the Meadow Fire is located at Red River Ranger Station and the fire camp is located at York's field. Local residents are encouraged to reduce speeds due to increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Yesterday's Fire Activities

Crews continued to maintain sprinkler systems, hoses and pumps around residences in the area between Red River Corrals and Red River Hot Springs on Friday, and continued to support structure protection efforts on the northwest side of the fire closest to private land. The fire actively burned in continuous fuel, making short runs up hill when given a chance. Unburned ground fuels are the primary carrier of the fire's progression. Single and group tree torching continued throughout the day. Firefighting resources, including engines and water tenders continued to patrol and monitor the northwest and west side of the fire to keep the fire from moving further downslope into Red River and to support structure protection activities. A dip site for helicopter use was installed just up the road to the east of Red River Corrals, and a helicopter was able to use the site to support fire line construction during the day. Fortunately, there have been no evacuations during this fire event.

There was not much movement on the fire's perimeter Friday, with most burning being confined to pockets of unburned vegetation within the fire's perimeter. The fire continues to slowly back downslope into the Red River drainage wherever there are continuous fuels. The Magruder Corridor was patrolled for spot fires and structure protection is in place at 14 Mile Trailhead, Granite Springs Campground and Green Mountain Lookout. The fire has burned to within several hundred yards of Granite Springs Campground.

Today's Planned Events

Today's priority will continue to be firefighter and public safety. Primary emphasis will continue to be structure protection along Forest Road 234 between Red River Corrals and Red River Hot Springs and to construct fire line along the northwest corner of the fire area where it has burned into the Red River drainage. Crews will continue with hazardous fuel reduction activities around residences and private land. Direct attack on the fire's edge with handline, supported by a skidgine (Rubber-tired skidder with a water tank) as well as feller buncher and excavator line construction will continue where it can be done safely. Fireline construction will be the main objective on the northwest flank of the fire, focusing on tying together road systems and past harvest units in the event that the fire becomes more active in moving towards residences.

Safety zones, lookout vantage points and long escape routes for firefighters have been established throughout the fire area. The number one hazards continue to be snags and numerous spot fires in the southern and eastern perimeter. The Magruder Corridor (Montana Road) will continue to be in patrol status with structure protection in place at 14-mile trailhead, Granite Springs Campground and Green Mountain Lookout.

Two 20-person crews, a dozer and a water tender from the Meadow Fire have been temporarily assigned to the 25-acre Baker Fire located southwest of Elk City. They will continue with mop-up efforts today. Movement of these crews has not reduced the number of crews and equipment assigned to the Meadow Fire in the vicinity of residences and private land along Red River.

Today's Weather Forecast and Fire Behavior

Yesterday's light rainfall, combined with moderate relative humidity, will restrain fire activity today. However, there is still a great deal of uncontrolled fire perimeter. Ground vegetation under the tree canopy is still dry and will contribute to produce single and group tree torching. The fire will continue to slowly creep around in heavy concentrations of ground fuel. Tree regeneration in past harvest units will be effective barriers to fire spread in these conditions.

A cold front is anticipated to cross the fire area late this afternoon with westerly winds developing. Early in the day, upslope winds will be 2 to 5 mph. Winds in the afternoon with the cold frontal passage are anticipated to be 8-15 mph with gusty and erratic winds near the thunderstorms that may precede the cold front. Maximum temperatures will reach 70-75 in the fire area with 75-80 degrees at the Red River Ranger Station. Minimum relative humidity between 25-29 percent will contribute to slow burning activity across the fire.

Fire movement will primarily be a slow backing fire in areas of continuous fuels, with some single tree torching, in the area above Red River. The fire will continue to back down slope and to the north in the head end of Baston Creek where the fire is most established.

Weather outlook for Sunday includes partly cloudy early turning mostly sunny. Winds are anticipated to be southwest to northwest 6-12 mph with some higher gusts in the afternoon hours. Temperature in the high 70's are expected with humidity 25-30%.

Area, Road and Trail Closures

For public safety, an area closure is currently in effect throughout the area surrounding the fire, including areas where the fire is most likely to spread as it becomes active. Access to the forest is closed at the following locations: Forest Road 234 (except to local residents) and the Magruder Corridor (Montana Road) at the Red River Ranger Station; Poet Creek on the east side of the Magruder Corridor; and Black Hawk Mountain. Visit the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc> or www.inciweb.org for maps and other information about the closure.

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